

THE TRAILBLAZER

Quarterly Bulletin of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County
Volume 3 Spring 1963 Number 2

SANTA CLARA COUNTY WATERCOURSES

Clyde Arbuckle

Nomenclature of Santa Clara County watercourses has always proved interesting to us. Almost every one of our important streams has had two or more names, and popular usage has changed classification of at least two of them.

Names of only a few of them will illustrate the point.

On March 25, 1776, Juan Bautista de Anza and Padre Pedro Font wrote that they camped on the banks of Arroyo San Jose Cupertino. An even hundred years later, Thompson & West's Historical Atlas of Santa Clara County showed this stream as, "Cupertino or Stevens Creek." And today we know it only as Stevens Creek.

The same source shows a similar transition for what we now call Adobe Creek. Prior to American occupation of California, it bore two other names, Yeguas and San Antonio.

But the stream presently called Saratoga holds the record. Spanish Californians referred to it as Arroyo Quito, and sometimes as Tito. After 1847-8, when an American named William Campbell built a sawmill on its banks, it became Campbell's Creek, but later dropped the apostrophe "s." Down in the valley, where it crossed San Francisco Road west of Santa Clara, old-timers called it Big Moody because it flowed through land owned by B. S. Moody. And just west of Alviso, at the present Highway 9 crossing, it appeared on early maps as San Jon and Zanjon.

The name of Arroyo del Valle, east of Mt. Hamilton, changed only slightly in comparison. Early American settlers in that area, experiencing difficulty with Spanish pronunciation, simply modified its name to Arroyo Bayo.

Originally, the stream that flows through Alum Rock Canyon bore the name Aquaje. But after it seeped through a willow swamp in the vicinity of Murphy Road, it became Arroyo de la Penitencia.

In 1852 a Berryessa district farmer, tiring of its winter overflows, diverted its upper portion into Coyote Creek near Berryessa Road. The willow swamp

drained, and the name Aquaje fell into disuse, Penitencia taking its place. As a result, modern maps show two Penitencias--one in Alum Rock Canyon and one below Murphy Road, the latter flowing into the Coyote northwest of Milpitas.

Arroyo de los Gatos, which heads on the southwestern slope of Loma Prieta, appeared on early maps as Arroyo de la Mojonera, a name now recognized only by surveyors and deep-searching history students. It seems to have taken this name from a stone monument used as a landmark on its course.

Rio Guadalupe, named by Anza and Font in 1776, appeared on maps for many years under its correct designation, Guadalupe River. But more recent mapmakers have begun to refer to it as Guadalupe Creek--this despite the fact that no less an authority than the First California Legislature declared it a "navigable river."

And the Coyote, named Arroyo del Coyote (Coyote Creek) by Anza in 1776, has begun to appear as Coyote River--probably because it is the longest and largest watercourse in the county.

* * *

By-lines from the President
Minnie L. Clark

At our quarterly meeting on Saturday, June 1, 1963, we will have as our guest speaker, Miss Sharon E. Ray, a student at San Jose State College, in the Social Science area, and recipient of the annual scholarship, awarded by the California Pioneer Society of Santa Clara County.

The topics chosen have been of great interest and the research done in some phase of Santa Clara County history, has been most rewarding. Dr. Benjamin F. Gilbert of the college faculty has ably sponsored this project and his students have done exceptionally well.

We are striving to arouse the enthusiasm of not only our members but all residents of Santa Clara County for the necessity of preserving our historical pioneer landmarks, that this generation may have the variety, accuracy and enough material to pass on to future generations so the fortitude of the Pioneers of this county will not be forgotten. By saving these landmarks it would be a visible reminder to our descendants and the new arrivals in our state of how the pioneer families lived, and would provide a firm bridge into the past history of Santa Clara County.

Adown the lanes of memory bloom
 all the scenes of yesteryear
 May patriotism give you and me
 the desire to make them reappear.

* * *

REMEMBER WHEN

Arthur Fisk

During World War I many Volunteers found themselves in France soon after a ninety day training period in the States. I was one of them.

Letters from home told how they were rationed on sugar, meat and other necessities, so the boys "Over There" could get their quota.

Now for the 64 dollar question. What became of the fresh meat and sugar during World War I? My outfit and many others didn't know what a piece of meat or a grain of sugar looked like. We thought it only came in cans. Corned beef and canned salmon along with dehydrated potatoes in five gallon cans. Thank goodness we had plenty of flour to keep our bakers busy with their field kitchens turning out fresh bread, and how good that bread tasted, dunked in a cup of black coffee.

Letters from home told of the great "flu" epidemic that spread over all the states, and how they were wearing masks in San Jose, until the town looked like a rendezvous for bandits. And how the young women were soliciting orders for liberty bonds, so the boys could come home sooner.

A clipping from the San Jose Mercury Herald dated September 26, 1918, reads as follows: "Workers Get Final Instructions at Meeting at the Montgomery Hotel.

Santa Clara County has a quota of \$4,596,250 in the Fourth Liberty Loan. Official announcement of this amount came from headquarters yesterday from the federal reserve district in San Francisco. Make it \$5,000,000 will be the slogan tomorrow."

Then came November 11, 1918 and a great celebration. From out of the nowhere came fresh beef, sugar, jam and other goodies. Plenty to eat for all, but the great mystery still remains. What became of the fresh beef and sugar prior to November 11, 1918?

Six months after--New York, U. S. A. then San Francisco and San Jose, California. It was easy to return to civilian life.

* * *

PIONEER ANECDOTES

A reminiscence of my aunt Mrs. Emma Mitchell Cogle, in regard to the flood of 1889, when the water from Guadalupe River backed up to the convent wall and down Santa Teresa Street to San Augustine.

Bessie Wideman Bacon had just a few days before given birth to Lloyd Bacon, and two men carried them through the water to her grandmother's house two blocks down, on Santa Teresa Street. Bessie Bacon played "Little Eva" in "Uncle Tom's Cabin" in the old auditorium at San Fernando and Market Streets. Frank Bacon wrote the story and play of "Lightnin'." Lloyd Bacon, from his dramatic beginning went on to become a celebrated Hollywood film director. Frank Bacon toured the country and achieved fame with "Lightnin'," which later became a film vehicle for Will Rogers. Bacon hoped to bring the play back to San Jose, but died on the road while showing in Chicago.

Wilma A. Donahue

* * *

During the late 1890's we were living in Casa Grande at New Almaden. Only mother and the cook knew that father was getting up extra early and the reason for his doing so. He had purchased a bicycle for my sister and was secretly learning to ride it.

One morning at breakfast father announced that he had learned to ride Lottie's bicycle and that after breakfast he would show us. When the meal was finished we all assembled on the front porch and father, dressed in the proper cycling garb of the day, knickerbockers, long stockings, sweater and bicycle cap, walked with the wheel to the upper end of the semi-circular driveway that ran in front of the house. Mounting, he started to pedal and with straight back and head erect, rode by the admiring group, but--just as he got past the porch the wheel slipped on the gravel and father sprawled on the lawn. In falling his foot struck the lever that operated a water hydrant, turning on the water which poured over him.

My brother Dave was the first to reach him and helping him up asked, "are you hurt?" "No," replied father, laughing, "but my enthusiasm has been slightly dampened."

Father mastered the bicycle and was still riding at the age of seventy-five.

Laurence E. Bulmore

46 YEARS AGO

(From the files of the S.J. Mercury Herald Sept. 2, 1917)

California Pioneers Defend S.J.'s Meteor

The proposed sale of the Alum Rock "meteor" was heartily condemned yesterday at the quarterly meeting of the California Pioneers. The members present at this meeting, which was held in Hale's Hall voted to attend the council meeting and to make a vigorous protest against "destroying this ancient landmark." All members present held the opinion that it would be nothing short of vandalism to sell this rock, whatever it may be.

Both President Pyle and Secretary Alex P. Murgotten, were present at yesterday's meeting, which was largely attended and considered one of the most successful meetings in recent years.

After the business meeting a luncheon was served. A short afternoon program followed the luncheon. Mrs. J.P. Hildreth played a number of old time piano selections, which were heartily applauded. Mrs. D.J. Gairaud sang "The Star Spangled Banner," and Judge J.C. Black gave an interesting address on the war situation. Colonel D. H. Bryant continued on the same subject. Judge P.F. Gosby, A.P. Murgotten, Charles D. Sykes, Mrs. L.J. Watkins and Mrs. A.T. Hermann were among the number who contributed to the pleasure of the occasion with humorous remarks.

50 YEARS AGO

(From the files of the San Jose Mercury, April 1913)

Miss Elva Hunter and Burton L. Ward were married Thursday, March 13th.

W. J. Bernhardt, for the last 14 years with the Farmers' Union has leased large and commodious quarters in Central Market and intends to cater to the choicest grocery trade.

City Engineer Irving L. Rider has returned from southern California and will make an exhaustive report on new street construction on next Monday evening.

Gilroy has agreed to pave Monterey Street in order to meet the requirements of the State Highway Commission.

Miss Nell McGinley, librarian of San Jose public library, has returned from a visit in Sacramento.

The John W. Grimes orchard located at Rincon Avenue and San Tomas Road, and consists of 96 acres of the best trees in the valley has been sold to Charles Schlessinger for about \$65,000.

County Clerk Henry A. Pfister issued a marriage license yesterday to John J. Farrington and Olive E. Stryker, both of San Jose.

LOOK FOR IT HERE

MARRIED, September 10, 1962, Leora Emig and Rodney Surryhne. After spending the winter in Arizona, they are now at home, 8631 Marianna Drive, Forestville, California. Our congratulations.

Clyde Arbuckle was the recipient of an award of merit for outstanding contributions to California History (particularly his extensive research on the trails of our California Pioneers) by the Board of Directors of the California Historical Society at their annual meeting in San Francisco on January 17th.

Lillian Fitts and Marjorie and Arthur Fisk were honored at the Annual Celebrity Luncheon of the National League of American Pen Women, Santa Clara County Branch, at the Golden Doors of Los Gatos on February 9, 1963, for special achievement during 1962.

On March 7th (Arbor Day) three redwood trees were planted in the south-east corner of River Glen Park, in memory of the Pioneers of Santa Clara County. Representing our Society were: Mrs. Minnie L. Clark, Miss Edith Titcomb, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Jones, Mr. Clyde Arbuckle, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Harriman, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Fisk.

The Rudy Fischers have recently returned home after a month's tour, including the Mardi Gras at New Orleans, the monkey and parrot jungles near Miami and a week's Caribbean cruise to the Bahamas on the S.S. Florida.

Mrs. F. G. Whipple, mother of Mrs. Minnie Creighton, (member of our Board of directors) celebrated her 100th birthday on March 22nd.

Mrs. Vivian O'Connor offers the following about the Social Group of our Pioneer Society; "We meet twice monthly at 82 So. 9th Street. Mrs. Kate Owen, chairman; Miss More, secretary and Mrs. Pinard, treasurer.

Our Sunshine Committee consists of, Mrs. Ogier, Mrs. Rutan, Mrs. Moxley and Mrs. Luhrman, who are always very dependable. We also have a committee that takes care of the flower arrangements and decorations for the quarterly meetings of the Pioneer Society, Kate Owen, Irene Lial, Mary Sciarrino, Elizabeth Berberich, Inez Getchell and Violet Oliphant. Miss More makes the flower arrangements for the centerpieces.

At our "Social Group" meetings we have a volunteer committee that serves a desert of their choice. Each member brings a prize and these are raffled off; when enough money is accumulated, a place is chosen to have a luncheon, which we all enjoy very much.

Mrs. Sicotte, 97 years old, the oldest member of the Pioneer Society, is also a member of the Social Group.

We wish more of the Pioneer Society members would come out and visit with us, any 1st or 3rd Monday of each month and see how we enjoy ourselves."

* * *

Welcome

Congratulations to our new members: Ralph Wilson Barnard, Susan F. Burgess, John E. Castro, Clara E. Castro, Catherine M. De Benedictis, Florence Dennis, Josiah Dewey, Clara Eldridge, Maude J. Fales, Patricia A. Flink, Frank Gaumer, John J. Gianotti, Dorothy Gianotti, Norma Meads Graham, Loretta G. Gullic, Lowell E. Guptill, Pearl A. Guptill, Louise G. Hardwick, Florence E. Hart, Rexford E. Hart, Esther Ibanez, Lydia E. Innes, Stanley M. Innes, Violet Pratt Johnson, Almer W. Laederich, Camille Laederich, Beulah M. Martin, Grace Tourtillott McDonald, Lillian H. Ohlen, Stanley G. Parton, Jacqueline P. Parton, Donna Buttner Peckham, Margaret A. Peters, Virginia S. Peterson, Lucille Culbertson Rea, Rose Rispaud, Annie L. Shaw, Hilda Spence, Clarence P. Van der Kamp, Edith V. Van der Kamp, Fred F. Zamzow.

Under the Weather

Miss Bernice Van Gundy is now at home following a serious illness.

Mrs. Gladys Budde, is now convalescing at home.

Mr. Stanley P. Williams is recuperating from a heart condition. He is now at home. 178 Cleaves Ave., S. J.

Kindly keep your officers informed as to the condition of any ill member, and report any sickness or deaths to the Chairman of our Sunshine Committee, Mrs. Lovene Luhrman. Phone 292-0070.

Beyond the Horizon

Tosca Woehler

October 9, 1890 - February 20, 1963

Alice Mabel Abbott

December 13, 1890 - March 9, 1963

The officers and members of the California Pioneer Society of Santa Clara County extend their sincere sympathy to the relatives and friends of our departed members.

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The Social Club of our society meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday afternoon of each month. Card playing and various activities highlight each meeting. For further information concerning Club activities call Mrs. Kate L. Owen, 295-1153.

For information concerning chartered bus tours for members of the Pioneer Society, phone Gertrude A. Bernhard, 293-3087.

Any items for the Pioneer scrap book may be sent to Mrs. Elsa Jensen, 520 Bradley Ave., San Jose 28, Calif.

Return to: 595 So. 13th Street
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